



MSCP

Management Actions Report



January 1, 2012—December 31, 2012

*City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Department, Public Utilities
Department, Environmental Services Department*





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Introduction

MSCP Management

The Multiple Species Conservation Program can only be successful through informed management of conserved lands. City of San Diego staff who participate in open space management include rangers, biologists, natural resource planners, reservoir managers, a code compliance investigator and pesticide applicator.

Summary

This report will provide a summary of the management projects undertaken in 2012 including mitigation, enhancement and restoration, invasive species removal, access control, trash and debris removal, enforcement, abatement of homeless encampments, and volunteer training. Environmental education is a vital part of our natural resource stewardship. Thousands of people visit our two nature centers each year, and hundreds of children participate in environmental education through partnerships with local schools, nature programs, guided walks, and interpretive signs and kiosks.

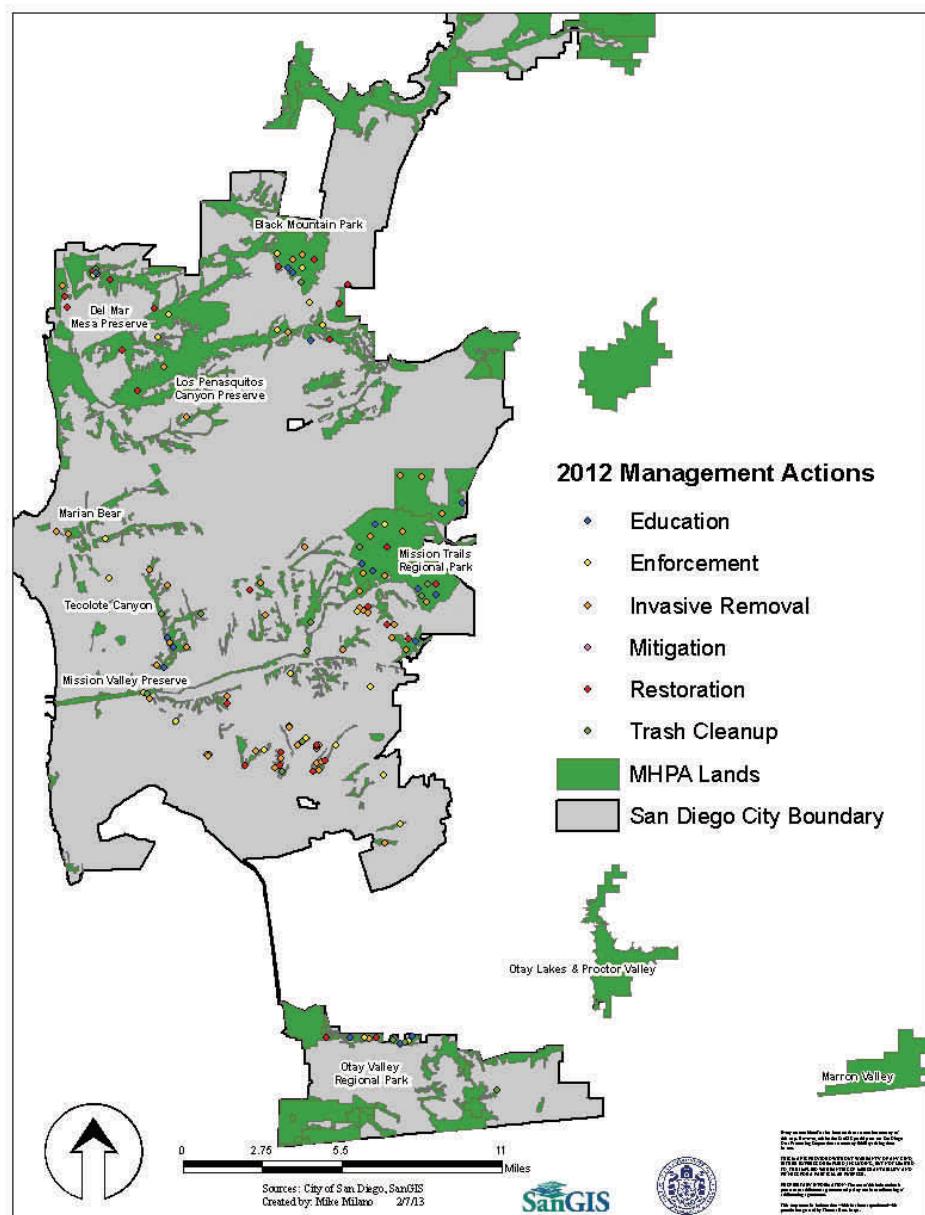


Visitor Center at
Mission Trails Regional Park

This report contains projects by City of San Diego's Park and Recreation Department, Public Utilities Department, and Environmental Services Department.

Many of our projects were completed in partnership with other public agencies, schools, environmental consultants, and non-profit groups. Please take time to review our incredible list of partners on the last page.

We thank you for your interest in San Diego's conserved lands, and invite you to take a look at the projects that we worked on in 2012.



Regional Location Map



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Black Mountain Park

Black Mountain Park is west of I-15 and harbors habitat for California Gnatcatcher as well as other species. Black Mountain also provides a natural experience for nearby residents.

Stewardship Management Actions

- Park-wide trail monitoring and maintenance—Monthly
- Trail brushing to close Old Camino Real trail connector at Gonzales Canyon—January
- Hosted volunteer clean-up event at Gonzales Canyon—January
- Installed a rest station at Black Mountain—January
- Gave two formal interpretive talks—April
- Removed pieces of concrete from trail and installed a puncheon bridge—May
- Installed several sections of peeler log fencing to delineate approved trails, close illegal trails, and conserve habitat—May
- Installed retainer steps to eroded portions of trail—May
- Provided interpretive services including talks and presenting materials at Discovery Table—May, June, July, August
- Installed signage at Lusardi Trail—May
- Removed illegal dump—August
- Installed ‘Habitat/Wildlife’ signage through the Park—September
- Removed invasive plants at various sites within the Park—September, October, November

Management Actions Related to MSCP-Covered Species

- Completed 25+ California gnatcatcher surveys—February
- Site preparation and dethatching for Cactus Wren grant activities—August





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Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve is an urban resource-based park that functions as an east-west corridor through the heart of San Diego. This area is visited frequently by recreationalists and makes nature accessible to local residents. Citizen interest in the preserve led to the development of the well-known Friends of Los Peñasquitos Preserve and the San Diego Tracking Team.

Stewardship Management Actions

- Park-wide trail monitoring and maintenance—Monthly
- Park-wide weeding efforts—Monthly
- Public Utilities Department continues maintenance of the Canyon View Uplands Mitigation Site—Monthly
- Assisted with training for San Diego Tracking Team –February
- Updated and installed new trail map in kiosks in the Park—February, April, May
- Removed tree house in Lopez Canyon—April
- Worked with three Eagle Scouts on projects in the Park—May, July, August



Public Utilities Canyon View Uplands Mitigation Site



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Del Mar Mesa and Carmel Mountain

Del Mar Mesa and Carmel Mountain are core biological areas north of Los Peñasquitos Preserve. Known for their vernal pool habitat, the areas also supports migratory birds and large mammals such a mule deer.

Del Mar Mesa Stewardship Management Actions

- Park-wide trail monitoring and maintenance—Monthly
- Posted and cleaned illegal encampment with SDPD and Environmental Services Code Compliance—November
- Intensive sign and patrol effort to keep visitors off closed trails — April, May, July, August, September, October

Carmel Mountain Stewardship Management Actions

- Hosted Qualcomm Cares volunteer event with 19 participants—May



Management Actions Related to MSCP-Covered Species

- Led interpretive hike to class at Ocean Air Elementary, and spoke at community's Vernal Pool Presentation event—May
- Coordinated with SDG&E and Chaparral Lands Conservancy for volunteer event to fence vernal pools in Carmel Mountain—November
- Coordinated with Chaparral Lands Conservancy on grant-funded restoration project for vernal pools at Carmel Mountain; Pre-Construction Site Visit October, Construction November - December

Boundaries of Vernal Pool delineated for enhancement at Carmel Mountain

for enhancement at Carmel Mountain



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Mission Trails Regional Park

Mission Trails Regional Park is the largest and most well-known open space park in San Diego. The park provides ample space for wildlife, including large mammals, and also harbors a diverse cultural history.

2012 News

In November, Mission Trails Regional Park expanded by 3,800 acres (66%) with addition of East Elliott and West Sycamore parcels.

Stewardship Management Actions

- Park-wide enforcement—Daily
- Park-wide trail monitoring and maintenance—Weekly
- Protective fencing installation as necessary based on trail monitoring—Monthly
- Park-wide signage plan and installation—Monthly
- 22 invasive species removal events covering 20 species—Yearlong
- Monitoring of 100 nest boxes, documenting first ever Wood Duck nest in the 12 years of Next Box Project History—Spring
- Ranger staff work with a volunteer to restore Cowles Mtn Barker Way Trail, and assisted in repairing a footbridge along the Golfcrest Drive Cowles Mtn Trail—February
- Erosion control and prevention measures installed on two trails—February
- New trails constructed in future MTRP West Sycamore Area—April
- Hosted the annual Explore Mission Trails Day with over 1,000 people in attendance—May
- Ranger staff updated handouts and revised materials for four Discovery Tables—July, August





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Mission Trails Regional Park

Management Actions, Continued

- Led volunteer cleanup event around Kumeyaay Lake—October
- Revegetated disturbed areas in West Sycamore Canyon—October
- Prepared and published a children’s Nature Club newsletter titled “Hidden Treasures of Mission Trails”—October
- Installed one doggie bag dispenser and two trash cans—November
- Release of 6 rescued raccoon by Project Wildlife—December
- Celebration of national Arbor Day included planting of 10 native trees as well as other native plants—December
- Completed 2nd draft of natural resource management plan/area specific management directives for Mission Trails Regional Park — December

Management Actions Related to MSCP-Covered Species

- Hand-weeding, herbicide and fencing of San Diego Thormint and San Diego Ambrosia—Winter and Spring
- Center for Natural Lands Management conducted a study of San Diego Thormint—June
- Coordinated volunteer maintenance of the San Diego Ambrosia site—October
- Management of vernal pools—Yearlong



Ranger Gutknecht talking to students at Mission Trails Visitor Center



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Mission Trails Regional Park

Mission Trails By the Numbers

Visitor Center Attendance = 79,804

Volunteer Hours = 11,436

Nature Adventure Program Attendance = 168 adults and 320 children

Trail Guide Walk Attendance = 3,213 adults and 3,781 children

K-2nd Grade Program Attendance = 711

3rd Grade Program Attendance = 1,834

4th Grade Program Attendance = 353

5th-6th Grade Program Attendance = 56

Kidz Watch Program Attendance = 129 adults and 296 children



Ranger Shimada-Cicirelli works on installation of fencing



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Tri-Canyon Parks and Mission Valley

The Tri-Canyon area includes Tecolote Canyon Natural Park, Marian Bear Open Space Park and Rose Canyon Open Space Park. All are large, urban canyons that function as wildlife movement corridors as well as habitat. The Mission Valley Preserve is within the San Diego River and provides habitat for the endangered Least Bell's Vireo.

The Tecolote Nature Center received 15,330 visitors , and approximately 3,500 students from pre-school to college participating in education programs in 2012.

Tecolote Canyon Natural Park Stewardship Management Actions

- Park-wide patrols and trash collection—Weekly
- Public Utilities Department continued maintenance of two wetland mitigation sites within Tecolote Canyon: Central Tecolote Canyon , and Tecolote Canyon (at Balboa and Groves) —Monthly
- Led Tecolote Canyon Nature Walk—August, September, October, November, December
- Hosted San Diego Audubon bird walks—September
- Removed over 200 pounds of Castor Bean seeds—September
- Removed several large Brazilian Pepper Trees—September
- Removed palms, *Arundo*, *Eucalyptus*, and Castor Bean— November
- Worked with high school students to remove invasive weeds— November
- Cleaned up brush from illegal dump— November
- Hosted 2 biology classes from Mesa College and three AP Environmental Science Classes from Francis Parker High School at the Tecolote Nature Center— December



Ranger Quinn leading group of children near Tecolote Nature Center



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Tri-Canyon Parks

Marian Bear and Rose Canyon Stewardship Management Actions

- Public Utilities continued maintenance for the San Clemente Canyon Wetland and Uplands Mitigation Site, and the Rose Canyon Wetland and Upland Mitigation Site—Monthly
- Installed Gold Spotted Oak Borer beet traps—January
- The Wastewater Collection Division of the Public Utilities Department installed rock barriers and pipe gates in Lower Rose Canyon to prevent dumping, unwanted vehicle entry, and damage to native habitat—October
- Installed security camera at Regents Road Underpass to document illegal dumping—June
- Documented habitat destruction caused by creation of an illegal BMX and mountain bike training course. Overseeing the restoration of the area by those responsible for the damage.—July
- Worked with The Key Club to maintain the Native Plant Garden—September
- Removal of 30 palms from Rose Creek—November

Mission Valley Preserve Stewardship Management Actions

- Surveyed for new and returned homeless encampments with SDPD—Weekly
- Removed homeless encampment—January
- Removed 8 homeless encampments—June
- Assisted in Coastal Clean-Up Day which included 100 volunteers and successful removal of 4 homeless encampments—September
- Coordinated with San Diego River Foundation on volunteer event which included 40 volunteers—September
- Public Utilities Department continued maintenance of the San Diego River Wetland Creation Site (Mitigation)—Monthly
- Public Utilities removed homeless encampment—September



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Urban Canyons

The urban canyons of the MHPA are scattered throughout the City of San Diego. Although small and subject to intense pressures, many continue to support native plants and wildlife. In fact, many of the large canyons are habitat for the sensitive California Gnatcatcher and Cactus Wren. Management actions can counteract the effects of isolation and edge effects to maintain the habitat provided by these canyons.

Stewardship Management Actions

- Patrols of canyons and trails—Monthly
- Installed regulatory signage at Radio Canyon and La Jolla Open Space—January
- Invasive species treatments at restoration sites citywide—January, February
- Coordinated tire removal and disposal from multiple canyons through CalRecycle Program—February
- Coordinated with San Diego Canyonlands on acacia tree removal and chipping—February
- Mapping and Biological Assessment completed for new trail connections in Chocolate, Juniper, and Switzer Canyons—February, October, November
- Coordinated with San Diego Police Department for transient camp removal in Manzanita Canyon and Swan Canyon—June
- Hosted volunteer clean-up event in Swan Canyon—July
- Removed homeless encampments at Cervantes Canyon and Encanto Expressway Open Space—August
- Open Space planners, biologists and rangers finalized the Canyon Project Assessment form for non-profit canyon enhancement project review/approval—August
- Assisted City Heights Canyon Alliance in development of a four-canyon restoration prioritization plan—August



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Urban Canyons

Management Actions, Continued

- Contracted/supervised non-native tree removal by Alpha Project in Manzanita Canyon—September
- Coordinated homeless encampment clean-up and illegal dump removal with Environmental Services Department in Swan and Eugene Place Open Space Canyons —September
- Worked with San Diego Canyonlands in invasive plant removal in Swan and Manzanita Canyons—September
- Assisted with Coastal Clean-Up Day at various canyon sites—September
- Supervised 20 volunteers in invasive plant removal in 32nd Street Canyon—September, November
- Removed homeless encampments at Paradise Canyon and Chollas Radio Canyon—September
- Rangers assisted City Heights Canyon Alliance with stakeholder planning meetings for Manzanita Canyon and Swan Canyon—September
- Coordinated with Ocean Discovery Institute on grant applications—June, NovemberThe Wastewater Collection Division of the Public Utilities Department installed rock barriers and pipe gates at 60th St/Baja, Swan Canyon, Loma Pass Canyon, and Jamacha Canyon to prevent dumping, unwanted vehicle entry, and damage to native habitat—October, November, December
- Assisted with San Diego Audubon Society’s “Habitat Helpers” program in planting native plants in Swan Canyon—Novermber
- Coordinated homeless encampment clean-up and illegal dump removal with City Environmental Services Department in Maple Canyon —November
- Participated in regional Cactus Wren restoration planning process —December



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Urban Canyons

Management Actions, Continued

- Assisted Friends of Switzer Canyon in planting native plants in Switzer Canyon—December
- Supervised Alpha Project at Pottery Canyon in implementing erosion control measures—December
- Ranger-led interpretive hike for Ocean Discovery Institute staff in Manzanita Canyon—December
- Assisted Groundworks Chollas in development of canyon enhancement plan and ROE requirements—December
- Hosted volunteer clean-up at Gonzalez Canyon—December



Ranger Allen works with volunteer on restoration project



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Urban Canyons

Management Actions,

Continued

- Monthly coordination on invasive removal and native plant restoration projects with:
 - Friends of Ruffin Canyon
 - Friends of University Heights Open Space
 - Friends of Gonzalez Canyon
 - Friends of Navajo Canyon
 - Friends of Chollas Creek
 - Friends of Juniper Canyon
 - Friends of 47th St Canyon
 - Friends of Switzer Canyon





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Otay Valley Regional Park

Otay Valley Regional Park is an east-west corridor surrounding the Otay River in southern San Diego. The park supports Least Bell's Vireo and rare native plants, such as *Dicranostegia orcuttianus*.

Management Actions

- Park-wide enforcement—Daily
- Park-wide trail monitoring and maintenance—Weekly
- Ranger-led interpretive hikes—Monthly
- Supervised Donovan Prison work crews in removal of trash, invasive species (especially *Chrysanthemum*) and homeless encampments—Monthly
- Removed illegal encampments and coordinated with SDPD's Homeless Outreach Team to offer services to disadvantaged individuals—Monthly
- Hosted interpretive walks and volunteer work youth groups including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Outdoor Youth Education Adventures, YMCA, and Imperial Beach Boys and Girls Club —Monthly
- Partnered with San Diego Coast Keeper, WildCoast, I Love A Clean San Diego, San Diego Port Authority, and many others for the 2012 Walk the Watershed Event, hosting 350 visitors—March
- Re-armored various trails that had been washed out—March
- Worked with over 35 instructors and students from San Diego Job Corps to remove over 20 cubic yards of ice-plant —April
- Hosted over 45 volunteers for the I Love A Clean San Diego Creek to Bay clean-up event —April
- Hosted over 180 visitors to the second annual OVRP Day event—June
- Presented a natural and cultural interpretive talk at Willow Elementary School, followed by an interpretive walk at OVRP—June



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Otay Valley Regional Park

Management Actions, Continued

- Hosted over 70 volunteers for Annual I Love A Clean San Diego Coastal Clean-up Day in which over 700 pounds of trash and debris were removed from the park—September
- Provided a tour of OVRP to High Tech High teachers and students—September
- Partnered with the City of Chula Vista and I Love A Clean San Diego for the Annual Beautify Chula Vista Day event in which over 100 volunteers assisted in removing over 1000 pounds of trash and debris from the park—October
- Park Rangers received a donation of 270 native plants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and River Partners (as part of their South Bay Refuge Restoration)— October
- Park Rangers received a donation of 3 tons of river cobbles from the USFWS and River Partners to be placed throughout the park in culverts—November



Dicranostegia orcuttianus



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Other Open Space Areas

Crest Canyon

- Partnered with Kelly & Associates on removal of invasive species—February
- Service Road maintenance to access native plant garden—September
- Coordinated with San Dieguito River Park to host Crest Canyon Clean-up which removed invasive ice plant—September
- Hosted two volunteer clean-up and work events—November
- Coordinated with San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy on grant-funded restoration project in Crest Canyon—December

Otay Mesa

- Interdepartmental collaboration for the Dillon's Trail Task Force resulted in removal of 271 tons of debris removed—November

Rancho Mission Canyon

Public Utilities continued maintenance of Rancho Mission Canyon Wetlands Mitigation Site—Monthly

MSCP Cornerstone Lands

- The Public Utilities Department's Division of Long-Range Planning and Water Resources has completed various projects at MSCP Cornerstone Lands including routine patrols, trash removal, signs and general enforcement, weed management, vernal pool monitoring, protection, and enhancement.—Monthly

Other

- Public Utilities continued maintenance of Mitigation sites in Soledad Valley (Restoration) and Watson Creek (Wetland Enhancement) — Monthly





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Citywide Projects

City-wide Projects

- Public Utilities Department managed 39 small habitat restoration and Erosion Control Sites in 2012—Monthly
- Completed MSCP Compliance Monitoring for 18 rare plants at 88 sites—March—July
- Short films developed on topics such as wildlife corridors, vernal pools, native vegetation communities, and Gold Spotted Oak Borers played on CityTV—Yearlong
- Completed 2012 *Brachypodium distachyon* field samples for regional management study at 61 sites—March—July
- Open Space-funded Code Compliance Investigator workload included 90 cases identified and 35 cases closed — Yearlong
- Open Space Pesticide Applicator conducted invasive plant control in 32nd St Canyon, 46th Street Canyon, Albatross Canyon, Bluebird Canyon, Carmel Valley Open Space, Carroll Canyon, Chollas Parkway Open Space, Chollas Radio Canyon, Encanto Expressway Open Space, Gonzalez Canyon, Guymon Arms Canyon, Kensington Area Open Space, Maple Canyon, Mission Hills Open Space, Mission Trails Regional Park, Mount Soledad Open Space, Navajo Canyon, Otay Valley Regional Park, Pasatiempo Open Space, Rancho Mission Canyon, Serra Mesa Open Space, Tecolote Canyon Natural Park—Yearlong



Open Space Pesticide Applicator



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Thanks to our Partners

- Alpha Project
- Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts of America
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Native Plant Society
- Center for Natural Lands Management
- Chaparral Lands Conservancy
- City of Chula Vista
- City Tree Christian School
- Donovan Crew
- Groundworks Chollas
- Francis Parker Schools
- Friends of 32nd Street Canyon
- Friends of 47th Street Canyon
- Friends of Chollas Creek
- Friends of Gonzalez Canyon
- Friends of Juniper Canyon
- Friends of Los Penasquitos Canyon
- Friends of Mission Valley Preserve
- Friends of Navajo Canyon
- Friends of Rose Canyon
- Friends of Ruffin Canyon
- Friends of Switzer Canyon
- Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons
- Friends of University Heights Open Space
- High Tech High
- Homeless Partners
- I Love a Clean San Diego
- Institute for Effective Education
- La Jolla Learning Lab
- La Mesa Police Kidzwatch
- Mike Kelly and Associates
- Mesa College
- Ocean Air Elementary School
- Ocean Discovery Institute
- Outdoor Youth Education Adventures
- Project Wildlife
- San Diego Audubon
- San Diego Canyonlands
- San Diego Gas & Electric
- San Diego Job Corps
- San Diego Mountain Bike Association
- San Diego Natural History Museum
- San Diego River Foundation
- San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
- San Diego Police Division
- San Diego State University
- Sierra Club
- The Key Club
- Tri-Canyon Interpretive Group
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- University of San Diego
- Urban Corps
- Vista Grande Elementary
- WildCoast
- YMCA



Friends of Los Penasquitos, Monitoring
Monardella



Thank you for your support
of natural open space within the City of San Diego!

For questions or to volunteer, please contact:

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